

appropriate business is to pursue and capture known offenders, or persons charged with crime. They have no power to make a domiciliary visit, or keep surveillance over the citizens. The law trusts to the power of public opinion, and for great offences, and all the high crimes to which the community is exposed, it trusts well.

But in regard to all the *mala prohibita* of the law, public opinion is too apt to go to sleep. Let it wake, and it is "*a giant refreshed by his slumbers.*" It shakes the temple of vice, and threatens to crush its votaries in its ruins. But it is not safe to trust altogether to its operation. The burthen, which wise, and moral, and honorable men have to sustain, cannot be sustained by them for indefinite periods. The law ought to have power to sustain itself.

Provide then the means of conveying to a jury a knowledge of what is passing in the crowd. Give to some one or other of your public officers authority and means to inquire, investigate, and unravel the conduct of suspected parties. Guard this power from abuse. Let it not—more than it must—interfere with honest occupation and industrious employment, but take care that the law is not cheated of its victims, because nobody is empowered to see where they are.

Let there be a power with suitable means to do what now is, and recently has been doing by a voluntary association of our fellow citizens, and you need not increase penalties—you need not change the mild character of your criminal laws, which character is so honorable to the Commonwealth, nor need you fear a repetition of the alarming evils that have suddenly been brought to light. As far as the arm of the law can tend to make men honest, and its strength can repress offences, so far, under these circumstances, will the security of the public be enforced, and the reputation of the State be preserved from the stains of unpunished depravity.

Respectfully your ob't. serv't.

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